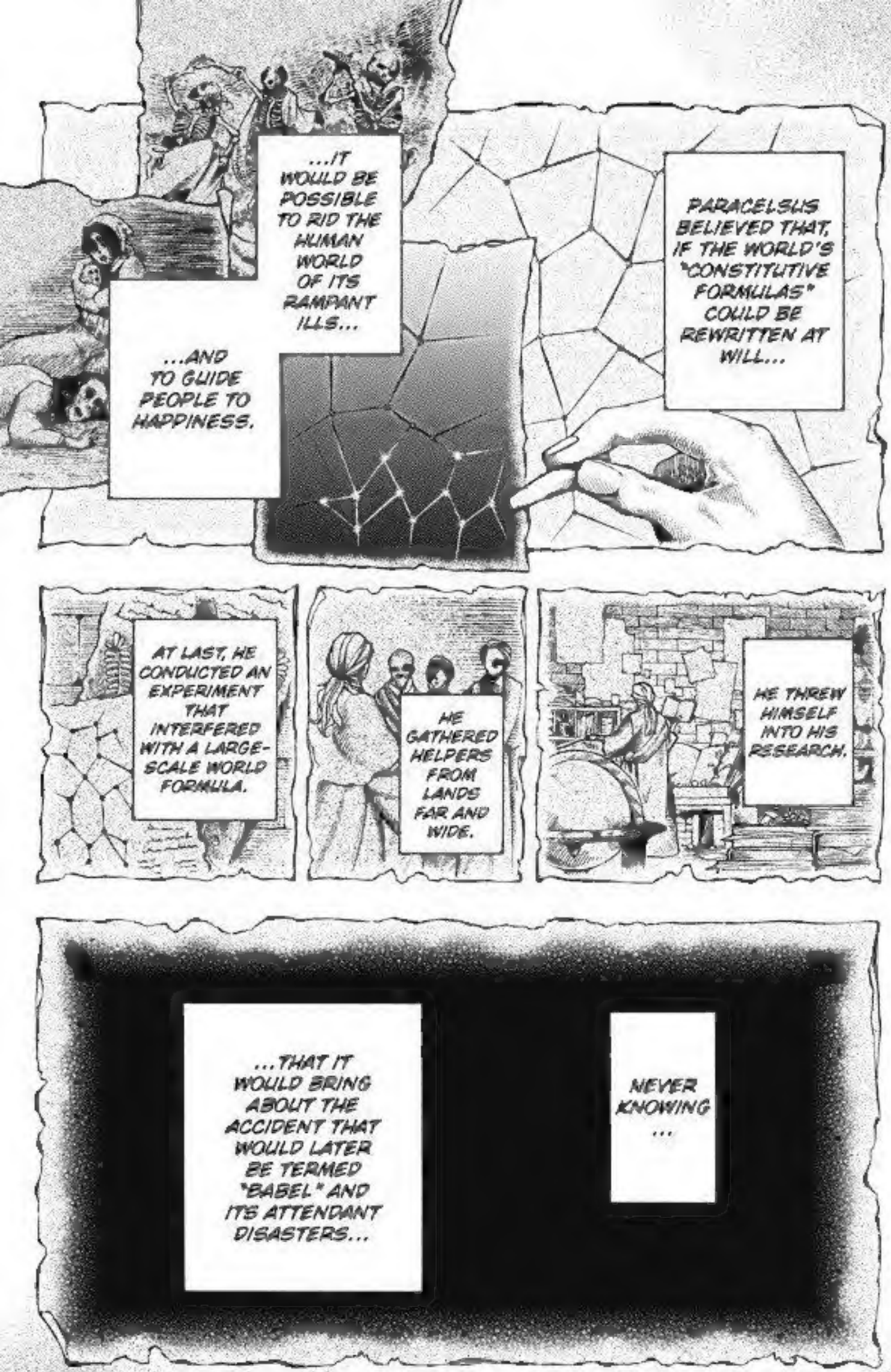
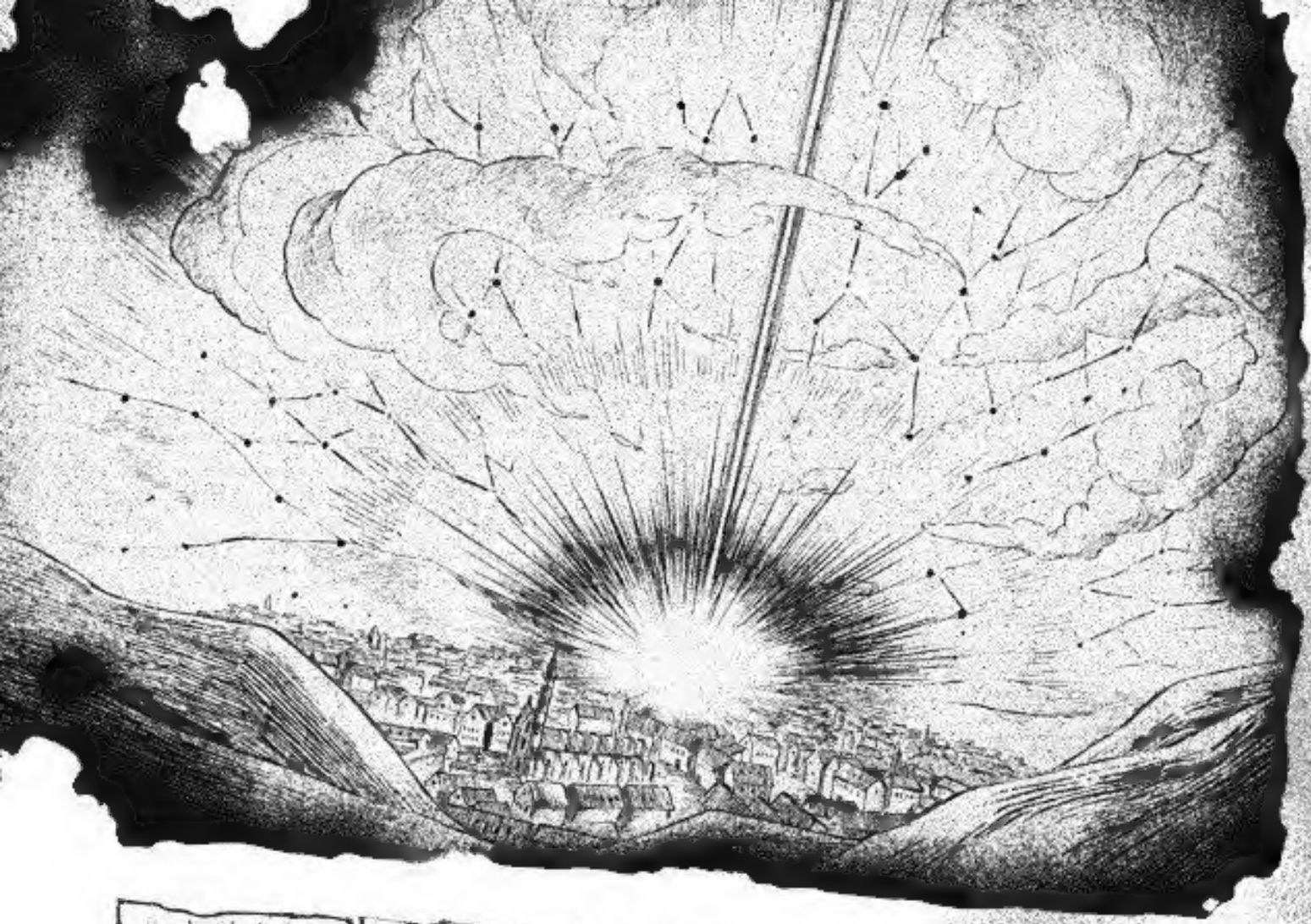
JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

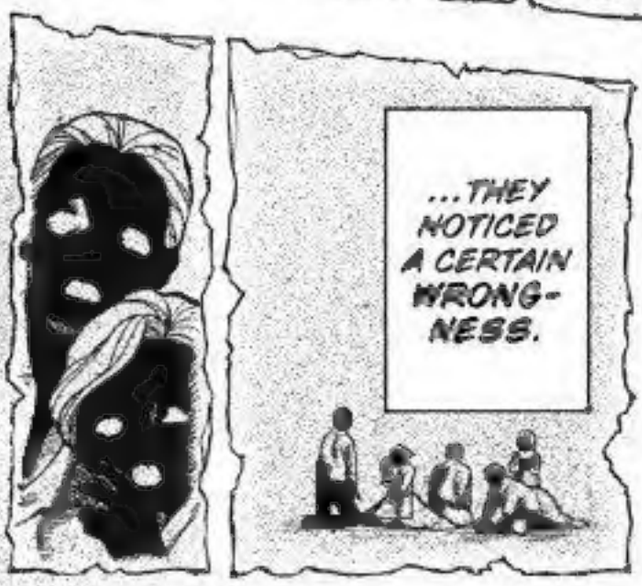
THE "WORLD FORMULA" THEORY—

PROPOSED BY THE GREAT ALCHEMIST PARACELSUS, THIS THEORY POSITED A CERTAIN IDEA.
JUST NEXT DOOR TO THE WORLD WHERE HUMANS LIVED— ONE STEP BEYOND IT...
...LAY A DOMAIN WHERE THE WHOLE OF THIS WORLD HAD BEEN REPLACED BY "FORMULAS."


PARACELSUS BELIEVED THAT, IF THE WORLD'S "CONSTITUTIVE FORMULAS" COULD BE REWRITTEN AT WILL...
...IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RID THE HUMAN WORLD OF ITS RAMPANT ILLS...
...AND TO GUIDE PEOPLE TO HAPPINESS.
AT LAST, HE CONDUCTED AN EXPERIMENT THAT INTERFERED WITH A LARGE-SCALE WORLD FORMULA.
HE GATHERED HELPERS FROM LANDS FAR AND WIDE.
HE THREW HIMSELF INTO HIS RESEARCH.
...THAT IT WOULD BRING ABOUT THE ACCIDENT THAT WOULD LATER BE TERMED "BABEL" AND ITS ATTENDANT DISASTERS...
NEVER KNOWING ...

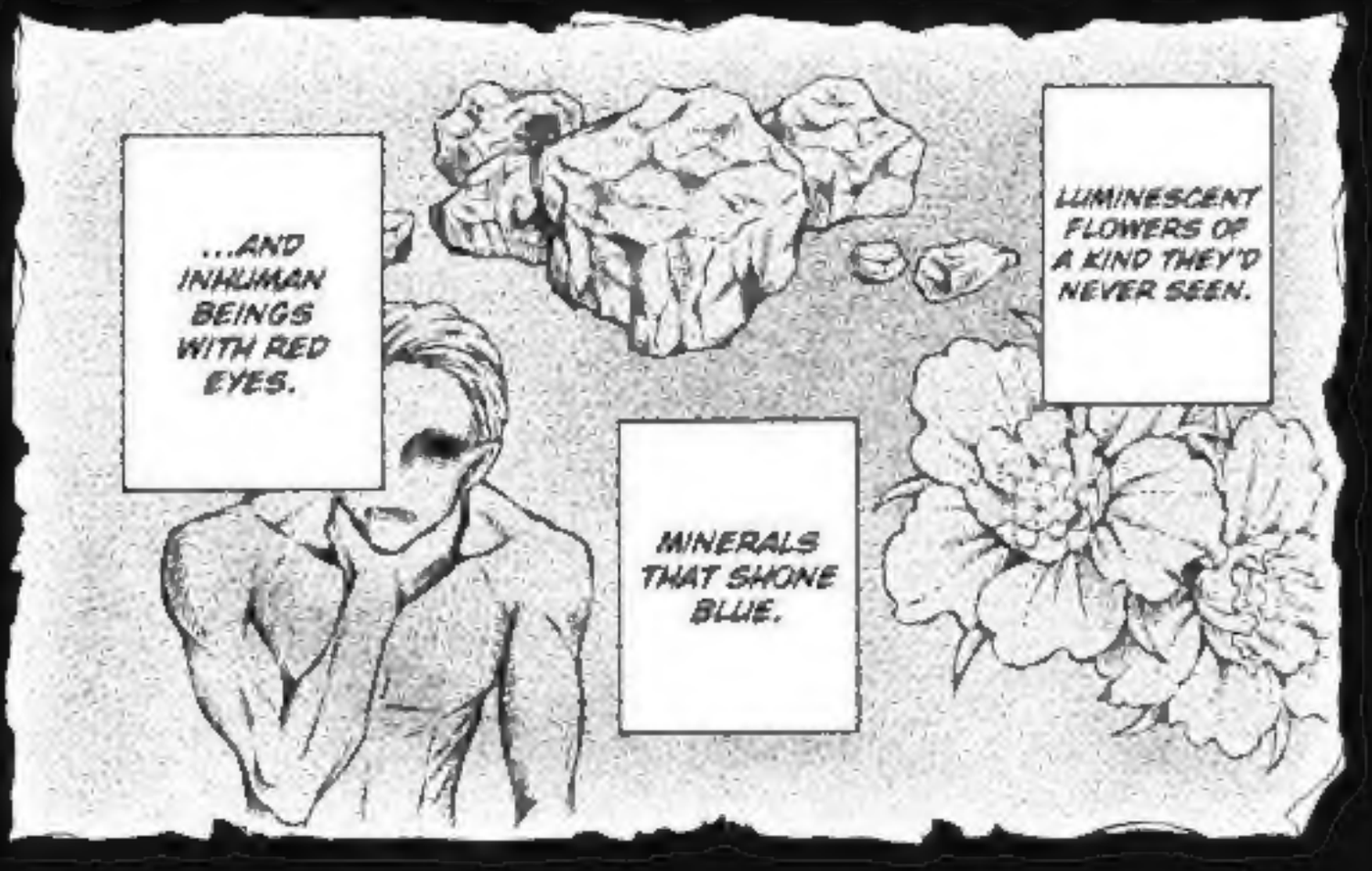


ALL THE PEOPLE COULD DO WAS PRAY TO GOD.
...BROUGHT DOWN A HOST OF CATACLYSMS UPON THE HUMAN WORLD.
BABEL...


...THEY NOTICED A CERTAIN WRONG-NESS.

WHEN THE STORM HAD FINALLY PASSED ...

"THE WORLD NOW HOLDS THINGS THAT WERE NOT THERE BEFORE."



DO YOU SEE, MON CHATON?
IN OTHER WORDS ...
...WE BELIEVE ASTERMITE IS A MINERAL CREATED WHEN THE CONSTITUTIVE FORMULA FOR COAL WAS REWRITTEN. IN THE SAME WAY...
...ARE A NEW RACE, BORN WHEN BABEL REWROTE HUMANITY'S CONSTITUTIVE FORMULA.
... VAMPIRES ...

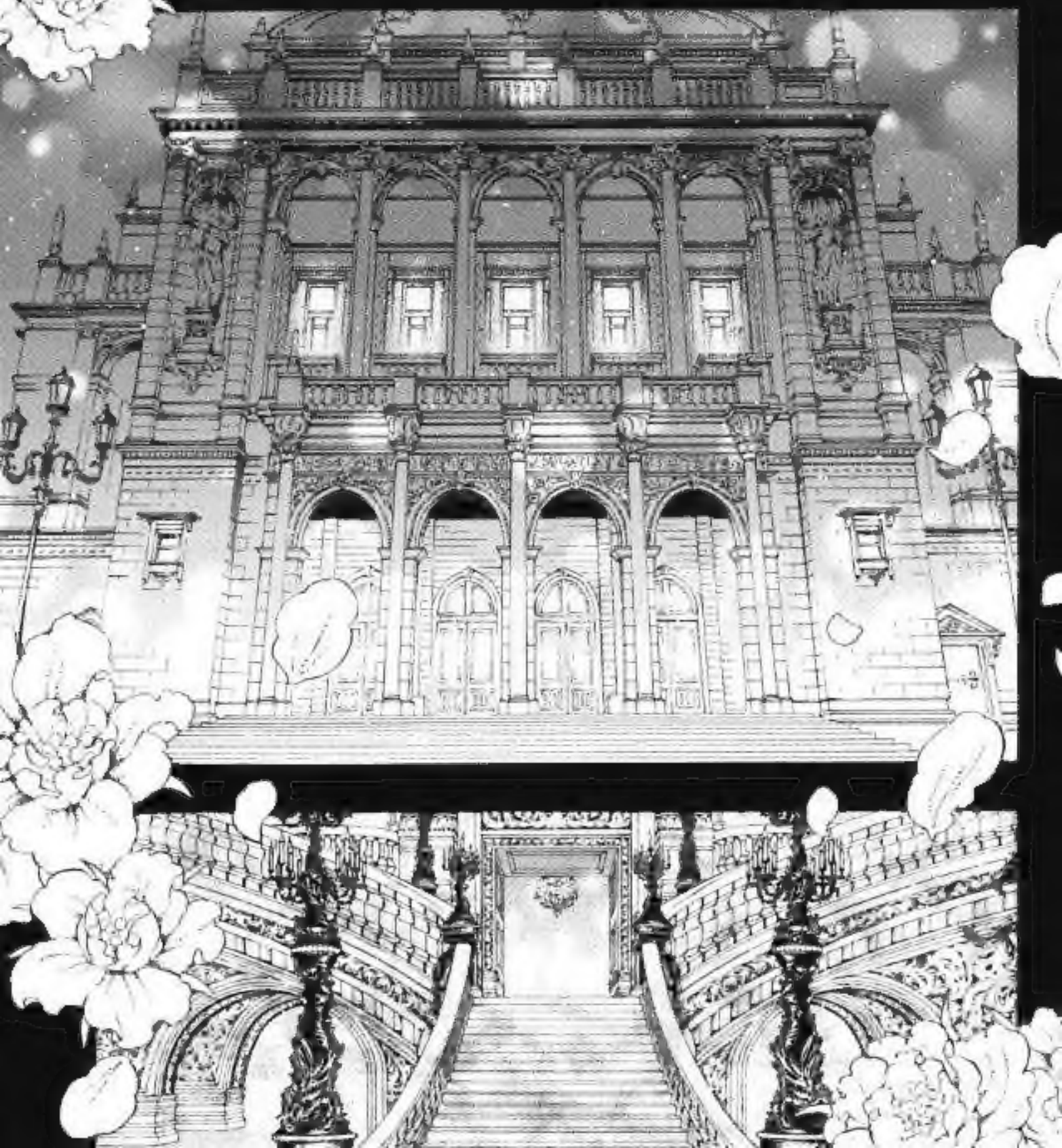
I EXPECT VERY FEW CHILDREN OF MEN STILL KNOW OF THIS FACT...OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE WORLD FORMULA.
HOWEVER, WE MUST NEVER FORGET.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...YOU AND ME TOO, TEACHER?
HM?
YOU... LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, TEACHER.
AH, YES. I AM.
I'M HAVING FUN.
BECAUSE YOU CAME WITH ME.
I'M SURE, FROM NOW ON...

JUN MOCHIZUKI

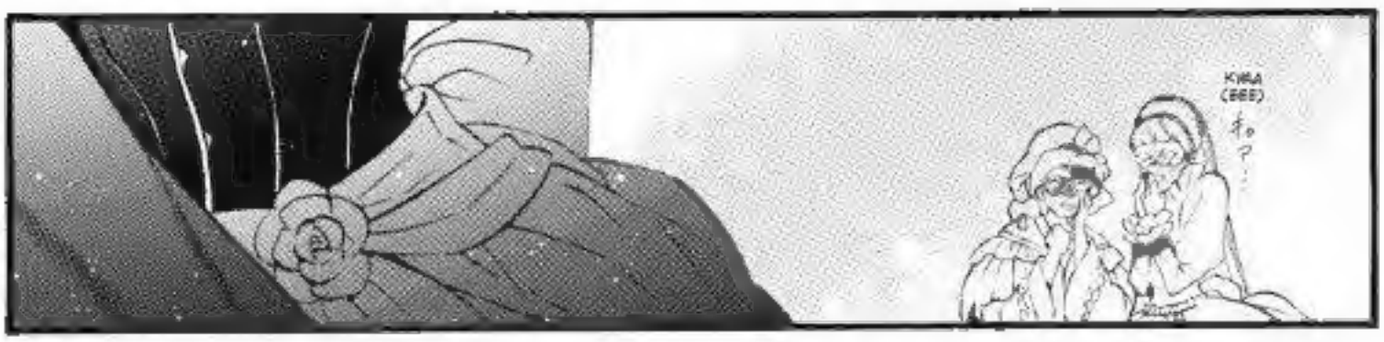
THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

Mémoire 7 Bal Masqué

NIGHT OF SNEERING MASKS



KUSU (GIGGLE)
KUSU
KUSU
KUSU

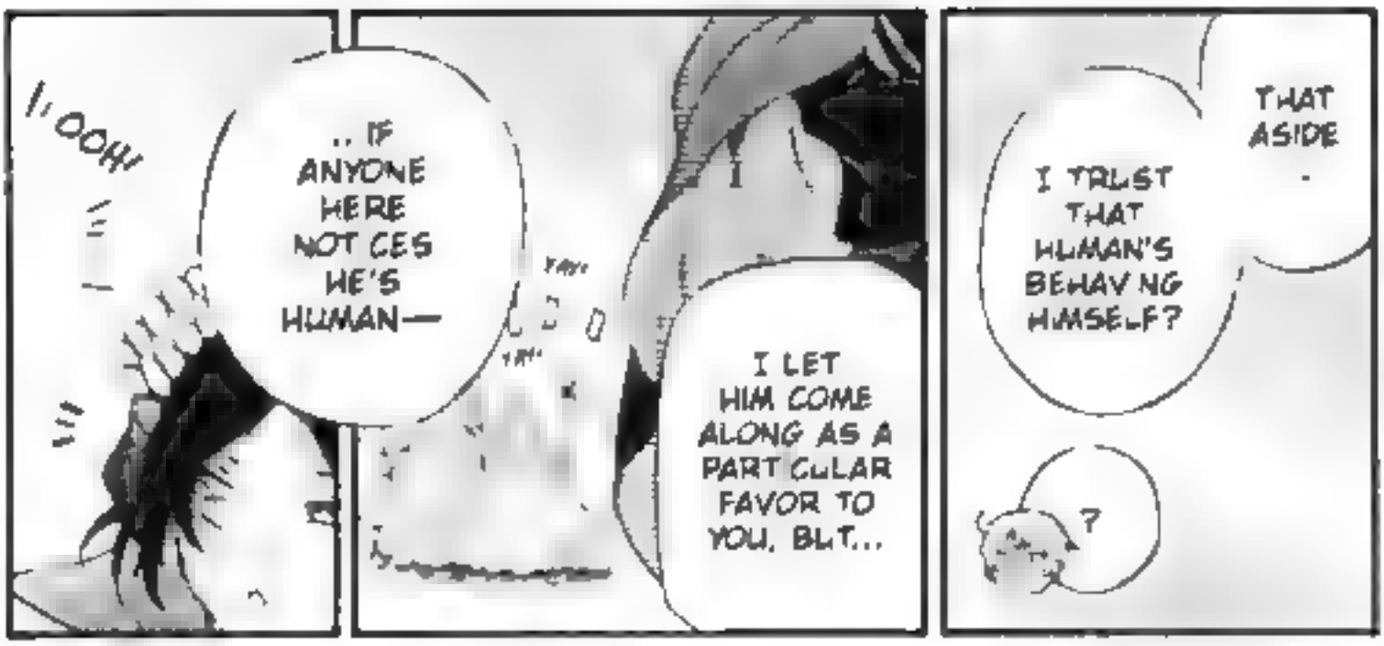

KWA (SEE)

I WOULDN'T FORGET.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF YOU'D FORGOTTEN HOW TO DANCE WHILE YOU WERE OFF BEING A HERMIT.
OH, GOOD.

...
WHAT'S WRONG? NOT FEELING WELL?

HA HA HA!
YOU DRUMMED IT INTO ME MERCILESSLY SO I'D BE ABLE TO DANCE WITH YOU.

...
IT KEEPS REMINDING ME OF WHAT I SAW.
MASKS... CLOWNS ...
... NO ...


!! OOH!
.. IF ANYONE HERE NOT CES HE'S HUMAN—
I LET HIM COME ALONG AS A PART CuLAR FAVOR TO YOU, BUT...
I TRUST THAT HUMAN'S BEHAV NG HIMSELF?
THAT ASIDE .
?

HERE, LOVELY YOUNG LADY.

CARE FOR A FLOWER?

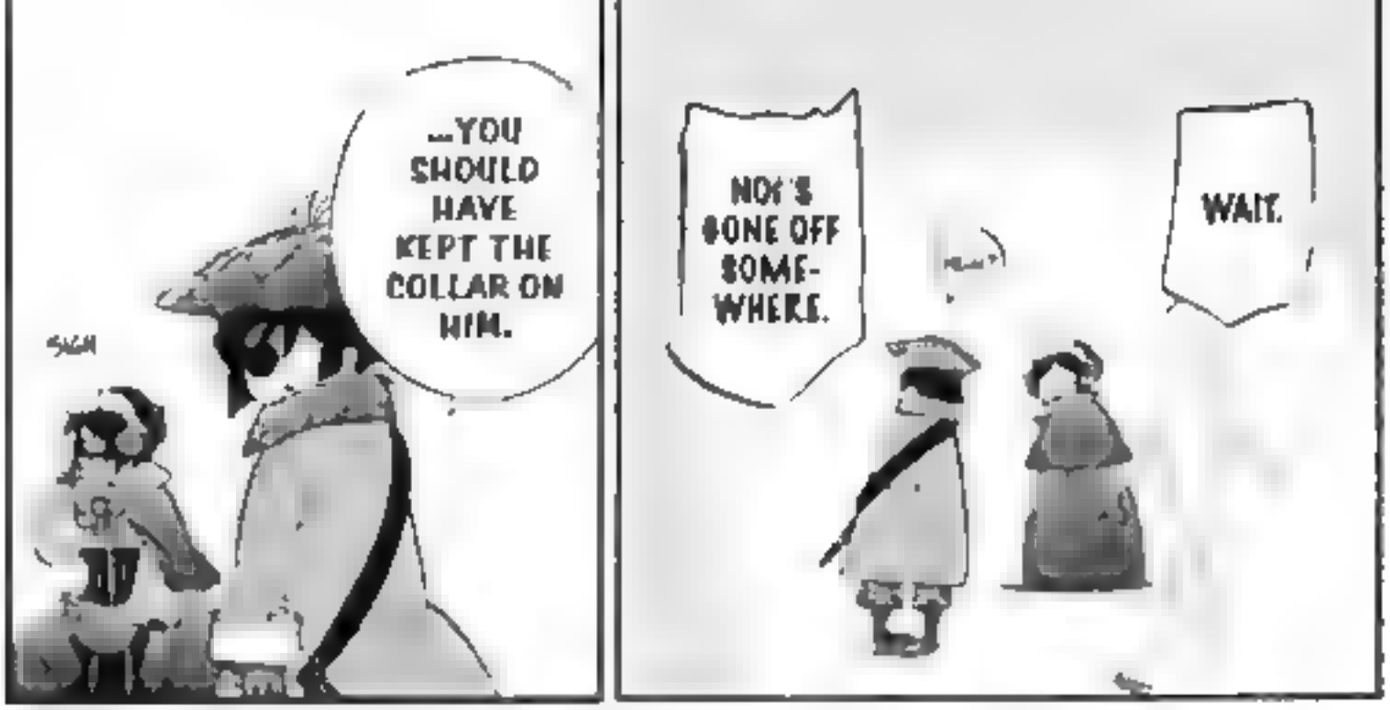
YOURS IS OVER HERE.
THAT'S WONDERFUL, CATHERINE
MY THANK YOU! MOTHER— LOOK. LOOK!
LUCKY SISTER!
THAT'S AMAZING! YOU CAN PULL OUT ANYTHING, CAN'T YOU!?
AH HA HA HA HA
THAT'S RIGHT. I CAN BRING OUT ANYTHING.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?
AAAAH!

I'M WEARING THE POMANDER DOMINIQUE GAVE ME.
EVEN SHARP-NOSED VAMPIRES WON'T REALIZE I'M HUMAN, EVEN UP CLOSE.
THAT'S PRACTICALLY ALL YOU'VE BEEN SAYING TODAY, YOU KNOW!
YOU ARE MAKING ME SAY IT..

IF YOU SAY THINGS THAT COULD BE MISCONSTRUED, YOU'LL CAUSE TROUBLE FOR HER. SO DON'T.
DOMI IS MY PRECIOUS FRIEND.
ANYWAY, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LEAVING ME ON MY OWN SO YOU CAN CANOODLE.
I WANT TO HAVE FUN TOO!
"CANOO-DLE" WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW VAMPIRES DEFINE "FRIEND."
...

NOE WANTS MY BLOOD ...
.. SIMPLY BECAUSE IT ISN'T THE FIRST TIME HE'S HAD IT.
DO YOU MEAN OUR EXCHANGE A LITTLE WHILE AGO?
NOE CAN CHANGE THE DEPTH AND DETAIL OF THE MEMORIES HE SEES AT WILL
WHEN AN ARCHIVISTE DRINKS BLOOD FROM SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY ARE FORCED TO SEE THEIR MEMORIES
AND SO
...BUT HE DOESN'T FEEL IT'S RIGHT TO LOOK AT ANYONE'S MEMORIES WITHOUT PERMISSION


...YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT THE COLLAR ON HIM.
SIGH
NOI'S GONE OFF SOMEWHERE.
WAIT.

IN HERE
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALONE
WELL, NEVER MIND

PREPARE THE USUAL.
PURCHASED THIS BOX. WE OWN IT
..EVEN IF YOU CRY OR SCREAM, NO ONE WILL COME.
JUST SO YOU'RE AWARE ...

AUTOMATONS, HERE? HOW STRANGE
I'D HEARD THAT, AS A RULE VAMPIRES HATED HUMAN TECHNOLOGY
BONI! WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS TONIGHT'S HOST?
ドーン
DON
DON
WHAT A THING TO HAPPEN!
THEY BOTH GOT LOST!?

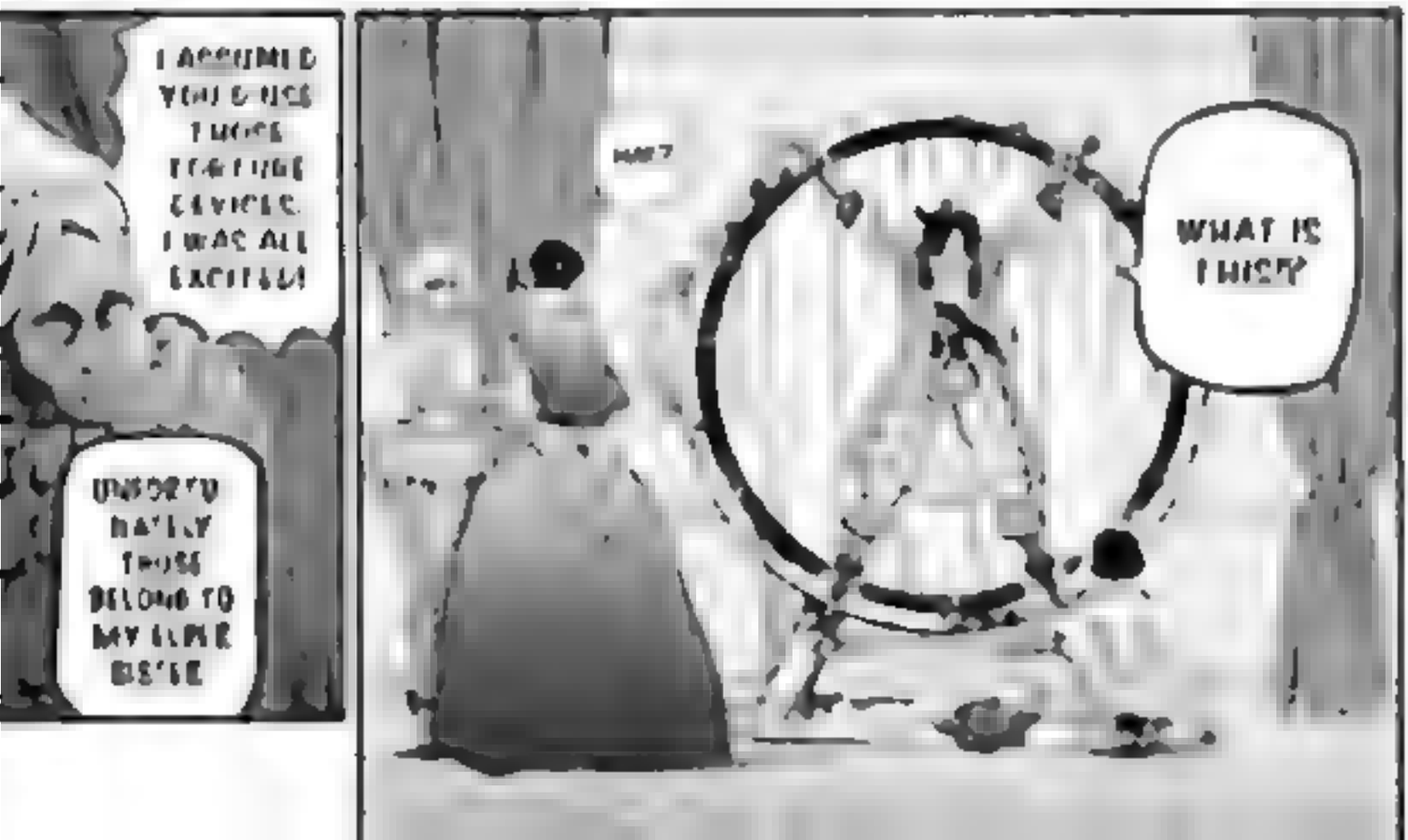
HASN'T THERE BEEN ANY NEWS AT ALL?
UNCLE HASN'T ARRIVED YET?
I'LL KEEP LOOKING FOR HER—
...JUST IN CASE, I WANT YOU TWO TO TELL MARQUIS MACHINA ABOUT UNCLE
NO
I HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED, BUT

!!?
AH.
WHY ARE YOU HERE ...!?

DON'T TELL ME... DID YOU FOLLOW US!?
NO, I'M..
HE'S
HE ...
"LU-CIUS" ?
WAIT. HE'S...
MASTER LUCIUS... WHO IS THIS?
HUH?
HE'S MY...
...FRIEND!!
HUH ??
ONE MOMENT!! I HAVE SOMETHING TERRIBLY IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU! LET'S GO OVER THERE, ALL RIGHT !!?
MASTER LUCIUS !?

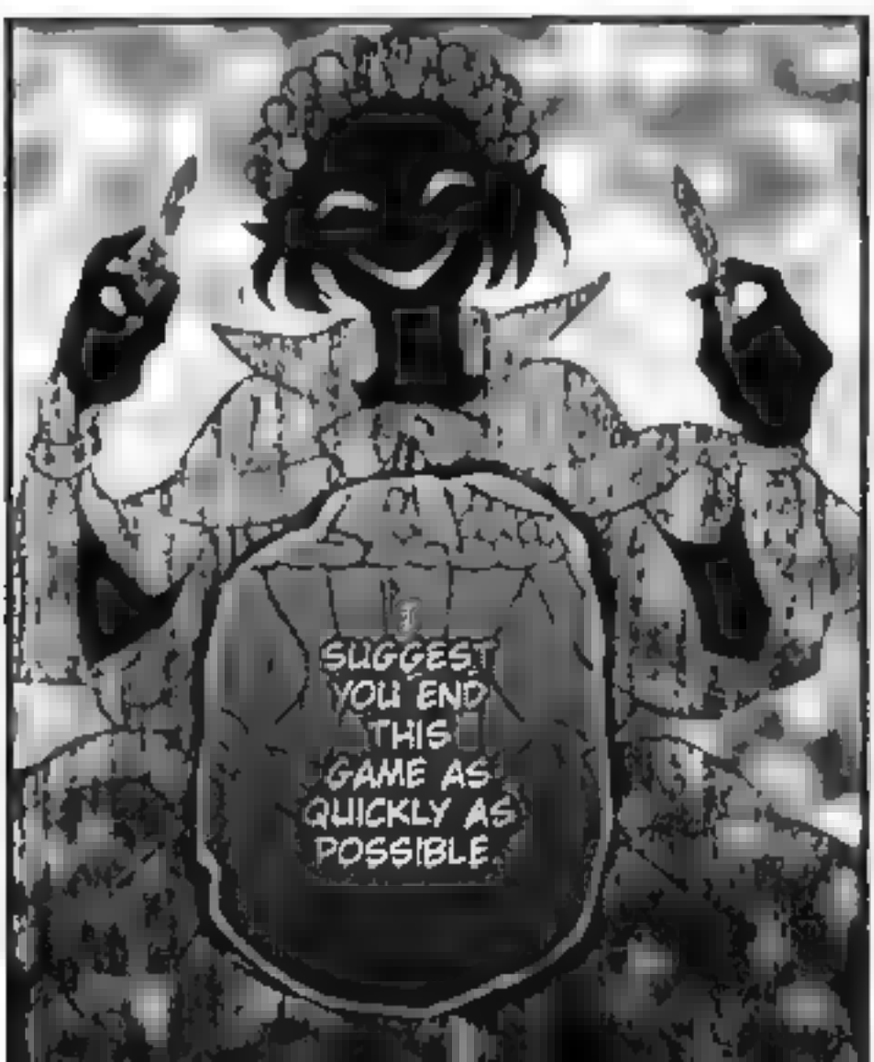
YES
HE SAID
THE WOMAN IS SHE HERE TOO?
MM

...HEY.
WHY?


WHAT IS THIS?

HOW DULL.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN FLINCH.


I SUGGEST YOU END THIS GAME AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

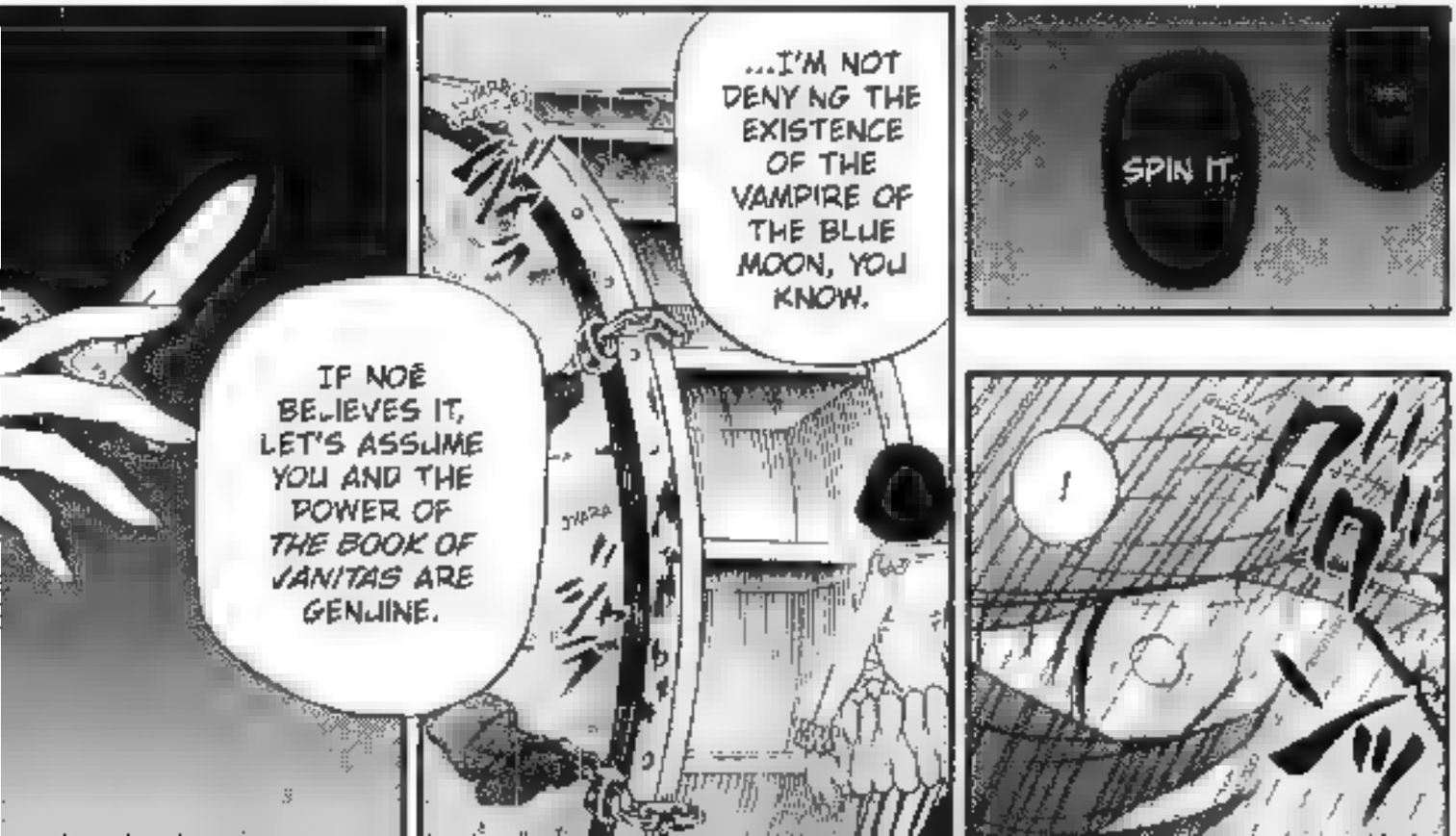
HEH!
THANK YOU.
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD ARM.

I MAY MISS AT SOME POINT
.. BUT I'VE GOTTEN RUSTY LATELY.

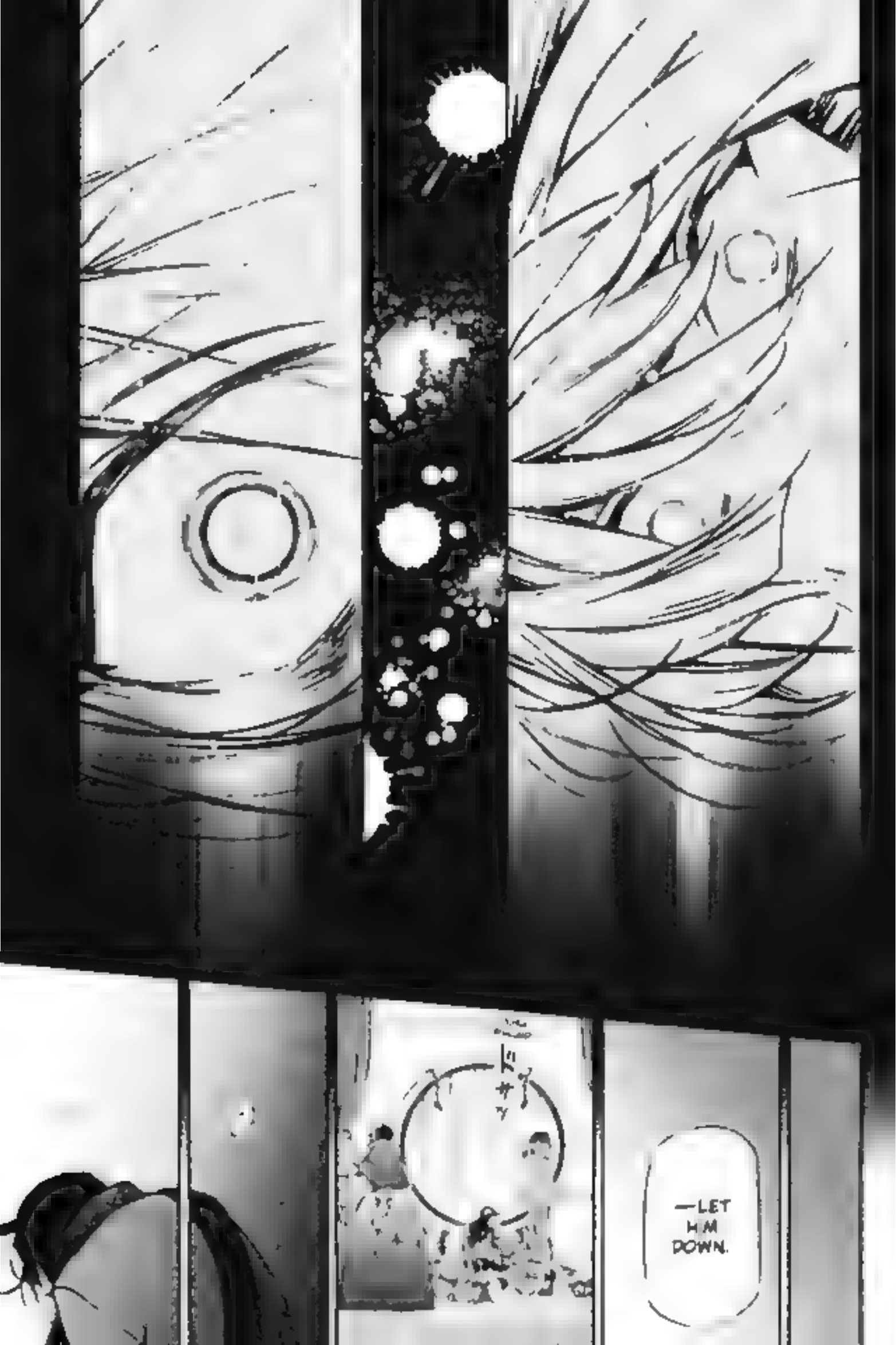
SO
TELL ME
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH NOE?
"WHAT"?
LISTEN, HUMAN.
I WON'T STOP NOE FROM SIMPLY GOING AROUND WITH YOU
IF IT'S WHAT HE WANTS I'LL HELP AS MUCH AS I CAN.

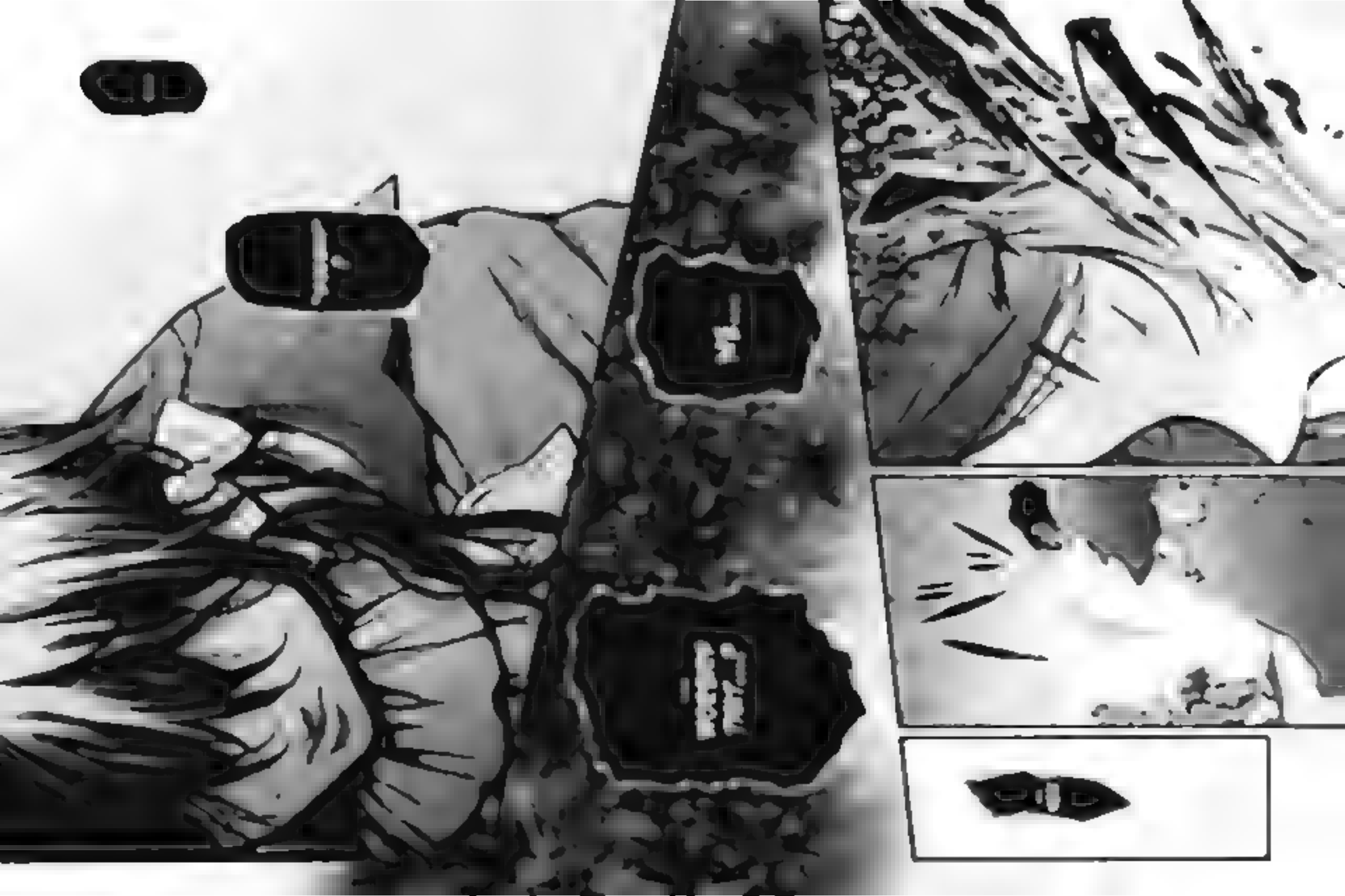
...I'LL CARVE UP YOUR FLESH RIGHT HERE!
BUT...
. IF YOU'RE TRYING TO USE HIS POWER FOR SOMETHING ..
. HA HA!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
"FRIEND" ?
IF HE GREW UP WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU, IT MAKES SENSE.
I SEE WHY NOÉ TURNED OUT SO SOFT AND NAÏVE.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE JUST "CONVENIENT FEMALES." ...THAT'S ALL.

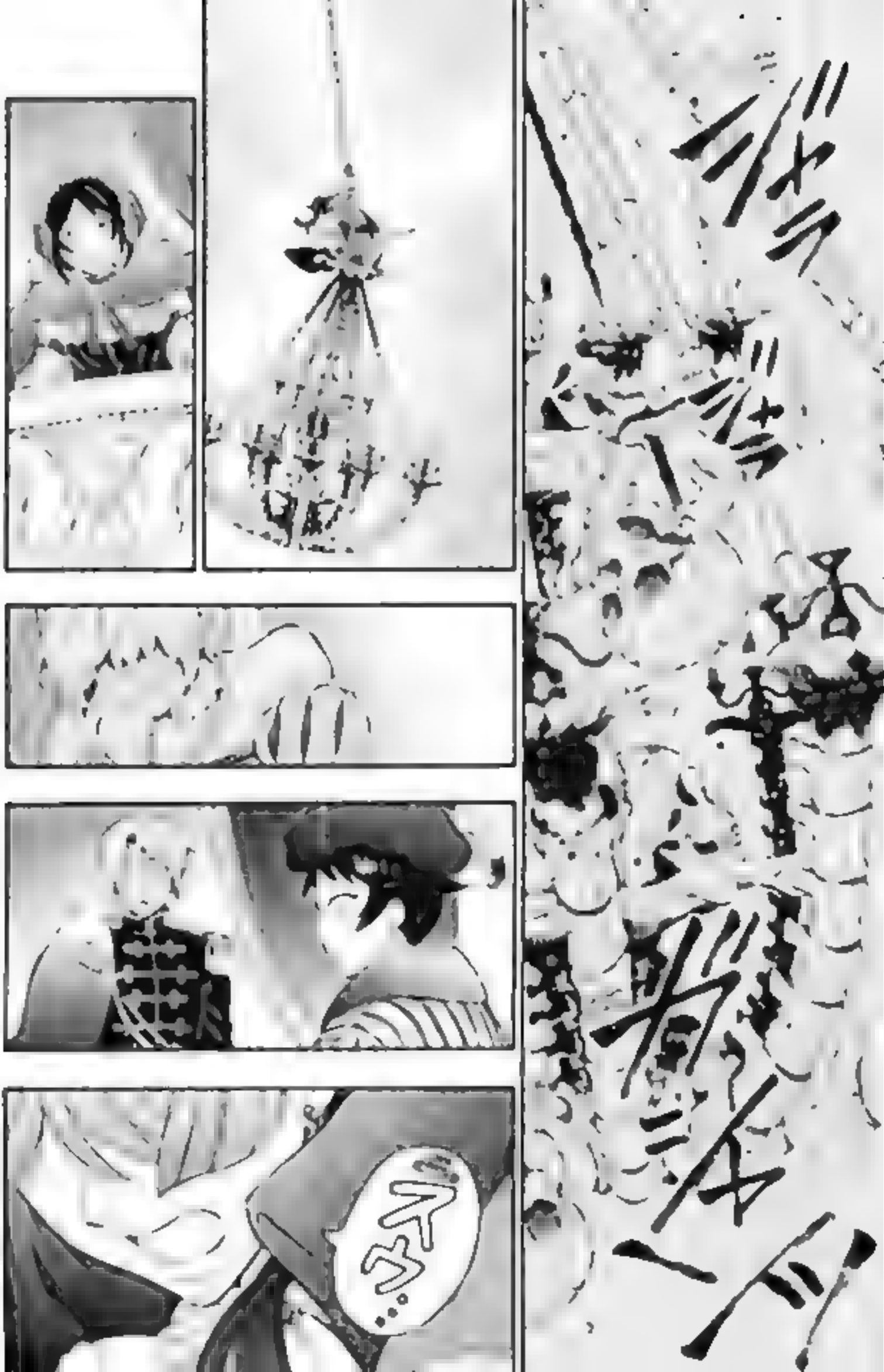

IF NOÉ BELIEVES IT, LET'S ASSUME YOU AND THE POWER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS ARE GENUINE.
...I'M NOT DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON, YOU KNOW.
SPIN IT.
!

WHY YOU WHO HAVE THE POWER OF THE BLUE MOON ARE RAMBLING ABOUT SAVING US, THE VAMPIRES OF THE CRIMSON MOON
WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS...
HOW CAN YOU SAY AM YOU AREN'T AN ASSASSIN SENT BY VANTAS?
VANTAS HUNTS THE VAMPIRES OF THE CRIMSON MOON HE MUST
HOW COULD I BELIEVE THAT?
...SHOW THAT YOU WORSHIP THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON!?
DOESN'T THE VERY FACT THAT YOU'RE USING HIS NAME...


—LET HIM DOWN.

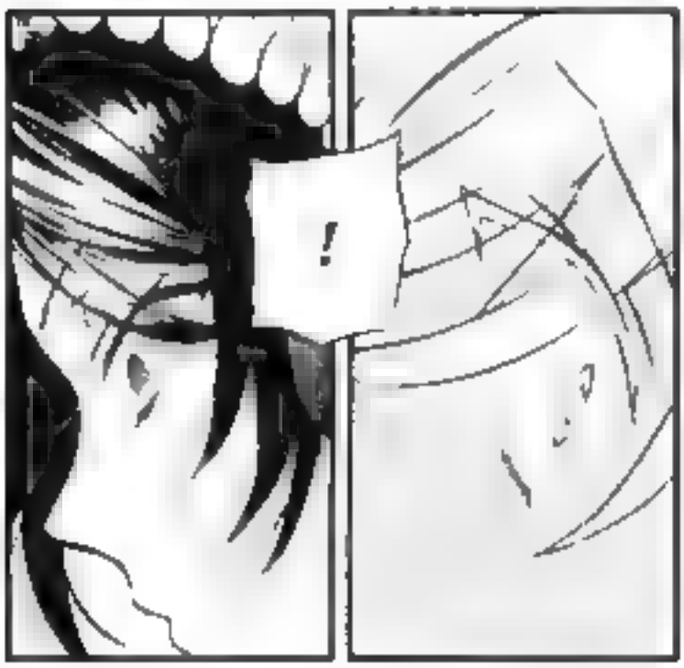


I SEE
HA
HA
HA



YOUR ATTENTION, VAMPIRES!!
I AM AN AVERAGE HUMAN BEING WHO INHERITED THE BOOK AND NAME OF VANITAS FROM THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON!!
MY NAME IS VANITAS!

HE'S ..!
WHAT IS HE DOING?
IS IT SOME SORT OF PERFORMANCE ?
WHAT'S THAT...?


!

FIRST, LET ME PROVE TO YOU THAT I AM KIN TO THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON.

THIS...
...IS THE PROOF.

A MARK OF POSSESSION ...!?
A SHOW OF FORCE, A STATEMENT INTENDED TO REPEL OTHER VAMPIRES: "THIS PREY IS MINE."
A MARK YOU LEAVE ON THOSE WHOSE BLOOD YOU SUCK
THAT'S RIGHT.

DIFFERENCE IN THEIR POWER AT A GLANCE

YOU KNOW WHAT SORT OF POWER I WAS GRANTED ...!

KILL HIM!! TEAR THAT MAN LIMB FROM LIMB! NOW!!

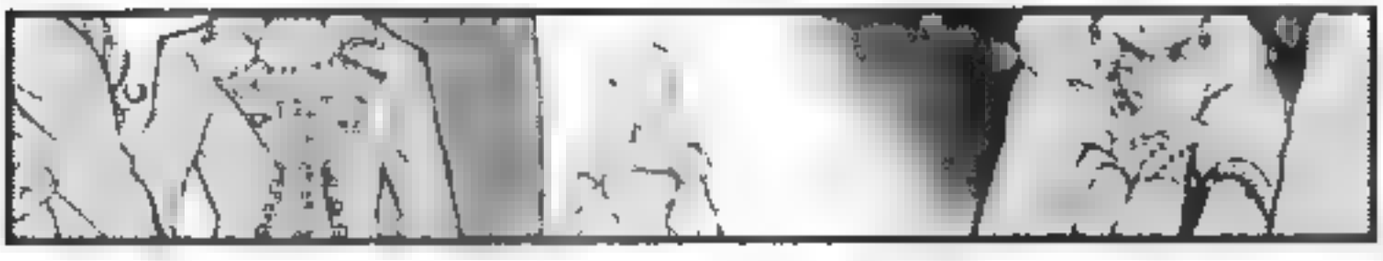
!?
TAKE A GOOD LOOK
THIS IS THE BOOK OF VANITAS.

ITS POWER CAN WARP YOUR TRUE NAMES WITH BASE, CAN SEND YOU PLUMMETING INTO DESPAIR WORSE THAN DEATH.
THE CURSED GRIMOIRE VANITAS CREATED OUT OF HATRED FOR YOU, THE VAMPIRES OF THE CRIMSON MOON.

I—!
I, WHO AM KIN TO THE BLUE MOON!!
I TELL YOU I WILL USE THE BOOK OF VANITAS, NOT TO SLAUGHTER, BUT TO SAVE YOU!!
BUT REST ASSURED
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
YOU ARE TRULY FORTUNATE!

...IS TREMBLE WITH HUMILIATION AND LET ME SAVE YOU!!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...
WHAT THE HELL DO I CARE!?
WHA ?
YOU OBJECT ?
IS THIS UNCALLED FOR?
THAT...
DOESN'T THAT SHOW THAT YOU WORSHIP HIM?
WHETHER YOU WANT ME TO OR NOT
I WILL SAVE YOU, WITHOUT FAIL.

THAT...
...WILL BE MY REVENGE ON VANITAS!!!



...
VANITAS
...

TO BE CONTINUED...

FIRST...
...I SHOULD HAVE BRANDED MY OWN EXISTENCE INTO YOUR BRAINS!
...WA...
KA!